

to administrator, all the time an advocate for students and staff. She has had a consistent commitment to quality education for all students, in the process becoming a role model for students.

She worked in New York City public schools for ten years as a teacher and administrator and in 1987 started her career with the Yonkers Public Schools as an Assistant Principal at Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

In 1991, she was appointed Principal of School 17, and served as Principal of Museum Middle School prior to her current assignment as Principal of Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

She has built partnerships with community organizations to create initiatives for her schools, including the Groundworks Gardening Project, the Parents-as-Partners Family Resource Center, the Healthy Eating Program, sponsored by St. John's Hospital and the Gorton High School Medical Magnet, the Westchester County Grandparent Volunteer Program, Yonkers Police Department's DARE Program, and St. Joseph's Hospital Yonkers Spectrum Clinic.

She has demonstrated that civic involvement and community service are important to her students' success and has encouraged staff, parents and students to reach out to the sick and the elderly, as well as to members of the United States Military in Iraq.

One of her passions, the Yonkers Pathways to Success, is a program to help adults learn to speak English and earn their high school diploma.

For her dedication to education she is being honored by the Yonkers YWCA with its Pacesetter Award, and I congratulate her and thank her for her great work in educating our children.

A TRIBUTE TO LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action of Wisconsin is the largest staff-based provider of civil legal services for low income persons in Wisconsin. In April, 2009, Legal Action of Wisconsin will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

In 1968, Milwaukee Legal Services and Freedom Through Equality merged to become Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action staff and volunteer attorneys providing pro bono services have represented and served over 400,000 clients since its inception. The agency has gained public benefits on behalf of clients, helped clients gain custody of their children, and assisted clients in relief from evictions. Further, Legal Action has always sought to go beyond individual representation for low income people by seeking systemic change for problems in order to provide relief to as many clients possible. Legal Action's intervention on behalf of low-income clients has resulted in many achievements including rule changes and modifications, improved procedures from agencies and greater income for clients. They have also positively impacted school systems,

health care systems, prison systems and the agribusiness industry to benefit and provide fundamental justice for clients.

The sole mission of Legal Action of Wisconsin has been to achieve fundamental justice for its clients through creative and effective legal representation. To that end, Legal Action of Wisconsin's lawyers, paralegals and support staff have always upheld the basic democratic principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under law. Legal Action continues to act in cooperation with clients, the private bar, and community organizations to ensure that they remain a community oriented law firm.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin for their 40 years of service. Its dedicated staff, board of directors, and volunteers continue to adhere to the principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under the law in the 4th Congressional District and the entire State of Wisconsin.

THANKING JOE DAVID BERG FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 2, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Joe David Berg for 32 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Joe has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Joe began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1977 as a Senior Technical Aid working in the Configuration Planning and Management Section (CPMS). All computing capabilities were provided by a huge mainframe computer with hardware that filled a 10,000 square foot room. Joe provided technical support to the mainframe programmers as a member of the Programmer Assistance Team for ten years.

Joe served the House in many different roles during his 32 years working at HIR. His expertise in the Configuration Planning and Management Section led to Joe becoming manager of that group. Joe served as assistant to the Operations Manager, where he implemented automated system monitoring and alerts. The use of automated monitoring tools was so effective that Joe continues to implement automated monitoring and alerts systems on current technology. Joe served as Security Manager of House systems for more than 2 years. He also served as Special Assistant in Communications, working on the budget, planning and coordination of Communications activities. In Technical Support, Joe provided direct support to Member offices with the National Change of Address service, better known as NCOA. The NCOA service, formerly operated by HIR, improves the accuracy of postal mailing lists. Joe currently serves as a Senior System Engineer on the Windows System Engineering team.

Joe's excellent level of performance over the years gave him the opportunity to oversee and work on many complex projects to include

building the AppManager monitoring system and was an active part of the design and build of the FinMart financial system that will become a part of the Atlas Project. Joe assisted in the initial build of the SQL database clusters that are the backbone of the majority of Windows based applications and websites for the House and is the primary engineer for the Windows based Active Server Page (ASP) and Moveable Type websites for Member and Committee offices. Joe single-handedly created sites for over 202 offices. He is also the primary engineer supporting the Federal Funds project. He has actively worked with our Virtualization effort in our "Green the Capitol" initiative and was instrumental in preliminary testing and subsequent implementation. He is one of the primary engineers for all hardware based efforts and server builds on the Infrastructure Team. He has provided countless consulting services to customers for various application and system creation projects.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Joe for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Joe many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

When I was a kid, my parents lost their house. My father became sick and could not keep up with the payments. Millions of Americans have suffered a similar fate during the current economic crisis and millions more are hanging on by a thread. We have a moral obligation to help prevent vulnerable homeowners from experiencing the same pain and suffering my family did.

It is projected that nearly 4,000 homes in my congressional district will go into foreclosure this year with over 8,000 to follow in the next 4 years.

H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act would provide lenders the incentive to refinance mortgages for homeowners in danger of foreclosure. It would reduce fees for refinancing and protect lenders from investor lawsuits. In addition, the bill would allow bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a mortgage for homeowners who can no longer afford their payments. This provision will save an estimated 1,225 homes in my district.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. So it is no wonder that many cannot afford their house payments. Allowing working families to renegotiate the terms of their mortgage is both fair and responsible.

Addressing the foreclosure crisis is key to our economic recovery. The mortgage meltdown got us into this mess, driving down home values and leaving our banks frozen with toxic assets. This legislation will protect homeowners and get our economy back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1106 and help families save their homes.

IN HONOR OF DR. MITCHELL J.
BIENIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Mitchell J. Bienia, as he is honored as the recipient of the 2009 Cleveland Society of Poles "Good Joe" Polish Heritage Award. Dr. Bienia's dedicated service to the Cleveland community as well as to the Polish American community continues to be evident throughout his life.

In his 30-year tenure with the Cleveland School District, he worked as teacher, guidance counselor, department head and administrator. For ten years, Dr. Bienia worked as a part-time guidance counselor at Cuyahoga Community College. Among numerous professional accolades, Dr. Bienia was the recipient of the 1970 Martha Holden Jennings Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, the 1990 Phi Delta Kappa Award, and the 1995 Counselor of the Year Award. Dr. Bienia's integrity and dedication to making a difference in his professional life is mirrored in his personal life as well. A lifelong volunteer, he has served as a member and leader with numerous social service organizations, including his current post as a Board Member with Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital.

In addition to his community service, Dr. Bienia has worked tirelessly to promote and preserve his Polish heritage. He has been an active member and leader with several local and national Polish organizations and currently serves as the National Director for the Chicago-based Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Dr. Bienia and his wife Krystyna are the proud parents of two grown daughters—Krystyna and Michelle, to whom they have passed down the value of family, faith and service to others.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Mitchell J. Bienia, whose service to family, friends, community and dedication to sharing Poland's cultural gifts all serve to illuminate the diversity that defines the Cleveland community and is the foundation of our country. Dr. Bienia's faith, his love of family and commitment to community is a testament to the true meaning of citizenship and reflects the American dream.

COMMENDING MARTIN AND BETH
ARON OF SPRINGFIELD, NEW
JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Martin and Beth Aron of Springfield, New Jersey. For nearly two decades, Martin and Beth Aron have worked tirelessly to make a difference in their community by helping others.

In fact, there are dozens of New Jersey civic, social welfare, educational, artistic and religious organizations that have benefited from the Arons' hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifices to help those in need.

On March 31, 2009 Congregation Israel in Springfield, New Jersey will honor Martin and Beth at the synagogue's 34th Annual Tribute Dinner for their remarkable and enduring contribution to Congregation Israel and to communities throughout New Jersey.

Over the years, the Arons have been involved in the Zamir Chorale and Zamire Chorale Foundation, both of which promote Jewish choral music as a vehicle to inspire Jewish life, culture and continuity. The Zamir Chorale performed at the White House this past year. The Arons have also been involved in the formation and development of Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy of Livingston, New Jersey, improving the education opportunities of children with unique learning challenges, as well as in the charitable, community outreach and children's programming activities at Congregation Israel.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Martin and Beth Aron with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people. I am also honored to join Congregation Israel in recognizing their outstanding service to their community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK L.
SWANNER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Frank Swanner.

Frank Swanner was a man who lived his life deeply rooted in his strong faith in God and love for his family and community. Born in Tanner, Alabama on January 28, 1921, he began his working career as a farmer, member of the Limestone County School Board, and an active member of the local Baptist Church and Baptist Association, as well as, working at Chemstrand/Monsanto.

When Chemstrand/Monsanto transferred the Swanner family from Decatur to the Pensacola Plant in 1959, Mr. Swanner and his family moved to Milton, Florida, where he continued his active service in the church and community as Deacon and music leader in Ferris Hill Baptist Church, treasurer of the Santa Rosa Baptist Association, a member of the Santa Rosa County Civil Service Board, the Local Democratic Committee, and the Kiwanis Club.

In addition to his love for God and family, Frank had a tremendous love for our country. During World War II, Frank Swanner joined the United States Army, which brought him to Omaha Beach and the shores of Normandy on June 6, 1944. With honor and sacrifice, he and millions of men and women answered the call of duty. They have become known as the "Greatest Generation," and we are eternally grateful for their service.

To some, Frank Swanner will be remembered as a community leader and fellow worshipper, and to others, an avid softball player and bowler. To some he will be remembered as a friend in the Wendy's Lunch Bunch, and to others, a comrade in the United States Army and World War II Veteran. He will long be remembered by his family and friends as a

loving and compassionate person full of energy and charisma. Frank Swanner touched a number of lives, and all who knew him are forever blessed for the love and inspiration that has left a lasting impression in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's great heroes, Frank Swanner, for his honorable leadership and service to North-west Florida and to this great Nation.

TAXPAYER FUNDED BONUSES AT
AIG

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in opposition to plans by American International Group Inc. (AIG) to reward their executives with "job performance" bonuses worth over \$165 million at a time when the American people, including my constituents in Minnesota, are making huge sacrifices to make ends meet.

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues in co-signing a letter to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to express my objection to AIG's payment of these ill-timed executive bonuses.

I want to go further and call on the Administration to repeal AIG's latest federal stabilization infusion of \$30 billion until they retrieve the \$165 million in bonuses, provide assurances that bonuses will no longer be disbursed without Congressional oversight and agree to turn over regular disclosure forms to account for how taxpayer funds are being used.

We must demand the highest level of transparency and accountability, especially since American taxpayers have provided over \$170 billion in funding to AIG and control approximately 80 percent of the company.

The purpose of the funds is to stabilize and prevent the devastating collapse of the financial markets, not to reward executives whose performance deserves an "F" grade for their failure to protect investors and consumers.

For traders—whose recklessness and greed greatly contributed to the financial crisis—to think they can profit at the expense of the taxpayers is unconscionable.

This latest irresponsible act by AIG has further compromised the public trust.

I am pleased that President Obama has responded so quickly by pursuing every legal avenue to block these bonuses. Like the President, who yesterday expressed that he is "choked up with anger," I am angry and so are the millions of families bearing the brunt of the economic meltdown.

These monies must be recovered immediately and AIG must provide documentation as to which executives were to receive the bonuses so we can determine if these awards violate recently enacted federal restrictions.

In January, I voted for House passage of H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, to strengthen accountability and oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program and require tough, sensible restrictions on executive pay.

And recently, Congress passed the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which President Obama signed into law, to curb